

Appln No. 10/760,216
Amdt. Dated May 12, 2006
Response to Office Action of April 14, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of April 14, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that movement of the clamp is configured to constrain movement of the printhead module relative to the casing across the longitudinal direction of the casing and in the direction of printing and to allowed movement of the printhead module in the longitudinal direction of the casing. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 13, line 26-page 14, line 21 of the present specification;

dependent claim 2 is cancelled;

dependent claim 3 is amended to dependent from claim 1; and

dependent claims 4 and 5 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to, nor any new issues to the prosecution of, the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 3-5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by previously cited Silverbrook, for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, the printhead modules 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on an elongate fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

The printhead modules are removably mounted to the casing 20 by clamping the printhead modules to the casing so as to constrain movement of the modules across the

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longitudinal direction of the casing (y-axis direction) and in the printing direction (z-axis direction) whilst allowing movement of the printhead modules along the longitudinal direction of the casing (x-axis direction). In this way, thermal expansion and contraction of the casing during printing is accounted for whilst securely retaining the modules in the casing (see page 13, line 26-page 14, line 21 of the present specification). Amended independent claim 1 recites these features of the present invention.

On the other hand, as discussed by the Applicant in the Reply to the previous Office Action, the modules 12 of Silverbrook are clipped to the reservoir molding by the clips 44 which locate within receiving formations 92 of the reservoir molding. As such, all movement of the modules relative to the reservoir molding is constrained, including along the molding (see col. 5, lines 3-38 and Fig. 3 of Silverbrook).

It is noted that in the Response to Arguments section of the current Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the Applicant's argument that "the clips constrain the movement of the modules relative to the chassis as an undesired effect", is not undesired based in the recitation of pending claim 2. However, the Applicant argued in the Reply to the previous Office Action, that movement, not constraint, of the modules is undesired in Silverbrook since the filling funnels 38 and associated collars 40 of the modules must remain sealingly engaged with the nozzles 42 of the reservoir molding.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 3-5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, or suggested, by Silverbrook.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

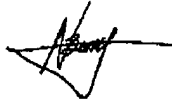
Very respectfully,

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